31st January 1929]

Protection to the indigenous pencil industry.

* 1206 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government have under consideration any proposals for protecting the indigenous pencil industry from foreign competition?

A.—No.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"Is the hon. Minister aware that the Madras pencil industry has been suffering very severely from Japanese and German competition?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"It may be so."

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether the Department of Industries has acted on the suggestion of the Government as to the necessity for some measure of protection in the matter?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"I do not know."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu:—"The answer to this question is 'No'. May I know why this negative answer is given and why should not the Government give some protection to this industry?"

The hon. the President:—"That is no supplementary question."

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi:—"May I know whether the Government purchase any pencils locally?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami:—"May I know whether all the requirements of Government can be met from this factory?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"I cannot say."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"In giving protection, are the Government taking any measure in regard to the railway freight?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"Full details are not available though the Madras Pencil Factory has been asked to give the Director of Industries further particulars on the matter."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu:—"May I know from the Government what their difficulty is in buying pencils from this factory?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"It is not a question concerning my portfolio."

Facilities for apprenticeship to students trained in the Trades school.

* 1207 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the students in the Madras Trades school find it difficult to enter suitable firms as apprentices on account of the limited number of apprentices taken by such firms; and

(*b*) how the Government propose to give facilities to students to learn a trade in view of such difficulty?

A.—(*a*) It is not correct to say that the 'students' of the Madras Trades School find it difficult to enter suitable firms as apprentices, because it is only bona fide apprentices attached to one or other